

FREE PRESS.

ISAAC H. JULIAN, Editor.
SAN MARCOS, TEXAS.
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REMOVED!

The FREE PRESS office will hereafter be found in Judge's Wood's new stone building, north side of public square, nearly opposite the Court House, upstairs.

Twenty five States begin the year with Democratic Governors, and thirteen with Republicans.

"There are too many hung juries," remarks the New York Truth, "and too few hung murderers."

Thanks to Hon. J. F. Miller for continued favors in the way of public documents, etc.

The name of the Agents' Herald has been changed to the Public Herald. It seems to be doing a good work in exposing advertising frauds.

The Dallas Herald says the longest fence in the world will be that from the Indian Territory across the Texas Pan Handle and thirty-five miles into New Mexico. It will be over 200 miles long.

John Swinton's paper says that "this is the coward's session of Congress, when each party, with an eye out for the year's Presidential struggle, is sure to shrink from any policy that may possibly affect its popularity."

The fine forests of Arkansas are being rapidly opened up to trade, by the numerous saw-mills that are rapidly springing up all over the timbered sections. More mills are probably being built there than in any other state in the Union.

Since the talk in favor of the "old ticket" is subsiding, a presidential boom is tried to be awakened in favor of MacDonald of Indiana, while another wing of the party leaders are insisting that a candidate from New York is absolutely indispensable to success.

We invite attention to the advertisement of the Cincinnati Times-Star in our columns. It is a thorough newspaper, mildly Republican, and of admirable tone and temper generally. We should be pleased to order it for anyone wishing a newspaper from that quarter.

The news from Austin indicates that more attention is being paid to the personal and political rivalries and jealousies of some of our State politicians than to the best interests of the people of the State. The FREE PRESS gives notice that it does not intend taking sides in these personal squabbles to any great extent.

Thanks to the Galveston News for the following handsome compliment. It says of our paper:

The FREE PRESS has entered on its thirteenth volume, is printed on clear new type, and edited with industry, ability and discretion, and a conscientious regard for truth. It never indulges in recrimination or invective, and never says anything foolish.

Persons not subscribers who may at any time receive copies of the FREE PRESS, will please understand that they are sent simply as samples, in the hope that the parties addressed may like it well enough to favor us with their subscription; otherwise they need have no fears of its being continued.

Mr. John Bright's two brothers-in-law, the Lucases, were originally Quakers. One joined the Roman Catholic Church, established The Tablet newspaper, and represented an Irish constituency in parliament; the other became a Radical of Radicals. Of the brothers Harcourt, now in Parliament, one is a Tory, the other a Liberal, and Newman, Prince of the Roman Church, has a brother afloat on the ocean of Deism.

The Galveston News truthfully suggests that the present scarcity of money is the result of the land and stock grabbing policy which has for some time borne sway. Up to the middle of the past season money was abundant and the State prosperous. Suddenly the cash was all gobbled to extend the conquests of the land sharks. Fence-cutting is wrong, and to be deprecated, yet its effects will be most wholesome in checking up the strides of this demon of land monopoly, the worst enemy of Texas to-day. If the fence-cutters had begun their operations some years sooner it would have saved the State and her "home and silver" many millions of acres of their just patrimony.

FROM AUSTIN.

[From our special correspondent.]

AUSTIN, Jan. 22, 1884.
ED. FREE PRESS:—As predicted in my last the Terrell bill climbed the golden stairs before leaving the Senate, which practically leaves that body where it started at the opening of the session. The House recognized the fact that it was impracticable, if not impossible, in a single bill to provide a remedy for these troubles, and if the Terrell bill was not unconstitutional it would be impracticable in the extreme, and should it become a law would prove unwieldy, expensive and inefficient. Not wishing to revolutionize "the World, the Flesh and the Devil," with one huge bill, the special committee of twenty, introduced several bills, one of which commands the county commissioners to open roads; another, to prohibit enclosing another's lands, and finally, the penalty for fence cutting or the destruction of property. The bill revising the civil statutes relating to public roads has already passed the House. Some of the speeches were very animated, notably those of Mr. Chenoweth and Mr. Patton. The debate was upon the bill making it a penal offense to enclose the lands of another or of the State, and Mr. Patton offered a substitute making it a felony. The vote on the substitute which was lost by 38 to 39 was looked on by some as a test of the sentiment of the House. But this can hardly be the case as it will be seen, hardly a quorum was present, while the views of the absent members are unknown. Mr. Patton claims that the sword should cut both ways, that if the nester be sent to the penitentiary for cutting fences, why, then, not imprison the man who encloses the public domain? Mr. Chenoweth argues that fencing the lands of another is only a trespass, and it would be unconstitutional to make it a felony. If attempted, the enlightened courts of the country would crush it. The causes in the two cases he argued were widely different. One was done in open day, the other in midnight darkness. He did not care how far in the line of misdemeanors the penalties went, but he would not consent by his vote—that a mistake as to the tenure by which a man had a title to the possession of land should be made a felony.

I have heard several members declare their intention to vote against the bill making fence cutting a felony unless, it was made a felony to fence another's lands or the lands of the State. This seems to be the only remaining problem to be solved. However, it is to be hoped that they will effect a compromise and still make the penalties sufficiently severe in both cases to check the evil.

The bill amending the Revised Civil Statutes relating to public roads has passed the House. This bill will remove one of the chief causes of fence cutting. It is too long to give in full, but the following is the gist of the bill:

The commissioners courts of the several counties shall have full power and it shall be their duty to order the laying out and opening of public roads when necessary; and to discontinue or alter any road whenever it shall be deemed expedient, as hereinafter prescribed; provided, that hereafter no public road shall be altered or changed except for the purpose of shortening the distance from the point of beginning to the point of destination. It shall be the duty of the commissioners to classify all public roads in their counties into first, second and third-class roads, and to act as supervisors of roads in their respective precincts as hereinafter provided, and commissioners' courts may on their own motion, where it is deemed necessary, open new roads or straighten existing ones. Each commissioner shall supervise the public roads within his precinct once each year and shall receive as compensation therefor three dollars per day for the time actually employed in the discharge of his duties; provided, that no commissioner shall receive pay for more than ten days in each year. He shall also make a report to the first regular term of the commissioners court, under oath, and state: 1st. The condition of all roads and parts of roads in his precinct. 2nd. The condition of all culverts and bridges. 3d. The amount of money remaining in the hands of the overseers subject to be expended on the road within his precinct. 4th. The number of mile posts and finger boards defaced and torn down. 5th. What, if any, new roads of any kind should be opened in his precinct, and what, if any, bridges, culverts or other improvements are necessary to place the roads in his precinct in good condition; and the probable cost of such improvements; also the name of any overseer who has failed to work the road, or in any way neglected to perform his duty. Said report to be

spread upon the minutes of the court to be considered in improving public roads and determining the amount of taxes to be levied therefor. The report made by the supervisors of public roads to the commissioners' courts together with all contracts for work on said roads, shall be submitted to the Grand Jury, at the first term of the district court thereafter.

The bill then recites the manner of making applications for the opening of roads; also the requirements to work the same. It is well known that the roads leading into San Marcos need working badly, but space forbids giving any more of the bill. Suffice it to say that if the county commissioners will now do their whole duty, one of the principal causes for fence cutting will cease, and the traveling public will be greatly relieved. With them rests the responsibility.

Commissioner Walsh of the Land Office in communication to the House says: The lands granted by the State of Texas for works of internal improvement are 43,614,560 acres. Under the act of July 14, 1879 known as the "50 cent law," firms or corporations bought about 1,000,000 acres. We have no information as to the patents, nor do we know whether they are citizens of the United States or aliens, consequently the present owners are unknown.

The air is full of political rumors at the Capital but my letter is already too long. "So long."

J. E. LAMB.

From St. Louis.

St. Louis, Jan. 24, 1884.

ED. FREE PRESS:—The weather has again turned bitter cold and the hard winter of '84 will be long remembered by the people of this region. There is much excitement in the city to-day at the news of another double murder which occurred last night at Fenton, Missouri near St. Louis. Mr. and Mrs. Bolecker or Bolecker, a young and newly married couple, were found murdered in their cottage, the bodies were literally cut into pieces, and the instrument of death, a bloody ax, is the only clue left by the perpetrator of this terrible deed. No one can imagine the cause or purpose of the crime; hundreds of citizens aided by the detectives and police of St. Louis, are making search for the murderers. Emmett Jones, who was to have been hanged here last Friday, received a commutation to imprisonment; the papers arrived just as the condemned man was making his last preparations for death.

The great annual Charity Ball took place here last night and was a most brilliant and successful affair. The hard fight between the police and the thieves continues. The thieves are bolder and more desperate than ever, but so are the police, and the "crooks" are being captured by the dozen and captured without mercy.

Mr. Irving, the actor and his "dramatic consort," Miss Terry are playing an engagement here this week, seats are from two to five dollars and no standing room left—and if any one could view the vast throng which makes the crowded audiences of snobs, flunkies, and cultured (?) ignoramuses that attend the theatre nightly, he would not believe that twelve thousand families were absolutely destitute and starving in the city.

The citizens have become thoroughly aroused at the danger of the city being destroyed by fire, and an appropriation of nearly half a million of dollars will soon secure four more engine houses, six fire steamers and hose trucks of improved kind, and over one hundred additional ladders.

CARL SMYTHE.

WASHINGTON, January, 24.—Fred Douglas, the well known colored leader, was married here this evening to Miss Helen M. Pitts, a white woman, formerly of Avon, New York. The wedding, which took place at the house of Dr. Grimke, of the Presbyterian church, was private, only two witnesses being present. He has been married two or three times before, his former wives being colored, the last dying about a year ago. The woman he married to-day was about 35 years old and was employed as a copyist in his office while he was Marshal of the district. Douglas is about 73 years of age, and has daughters as old as his present wife.

The Rev. Isaac Kallach, who used to be Dennis Kearney's running mate on the political turf of California, is now repudiated by the San Francisco public, as was demonstrated by the fact that when he recently returned from the east and lectured in his church in San Francisco, less than fifty people came to hear him. He now proposes to go to Oregon to live. Three years ago Dennis Kearney and he held the destiny of the Pacific coast in their hands. To-day Kearney is keeping a pea-nut stand and Kallach is off for a career in an unexplored waste where the jabberwock rears its young and the white man whistles pine sticks and shoots squirrels for a living.

The population of Coleman is increasing rapidly. One family of newcomers has 9, another 10 and a third 11 children.

The San Antonio Express says the price of wood in that city would make Vanderbilt or Rothschild quake.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From Our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1884.

The annals of Congress during the past week have not been exciting, but important work has been accomplished in both houses and in committee. According to custom, a large number of new or renewed bills were presented on Monday. The Fitz John Porter bill is again the subject of debate and oratorical drivel in both houses. It is a great pity that this question cannot have a final extra-legislative and extra-political settlement. Congress is entirely too expensive a tribunal to try the grievances, whether they be just or fictitious of the little general. Besides a politico-legislative body is not from a common sense point of view a competent court to judge a question that seems to be of a purely military and tactical character. Gen. Logan is expected to make the greatest effort of his life on the Fitz John Porter bill this week. When he last spoke on this subject he drew a sublime picture of the ship of state tossed on the billows of treason, but steady and firm because supported by the pillars of liberty. Logan is immense as a word painter, and consistency of metaphor troubles him no more than correctness of grammar.

The Temperance question was discussed in a side issue way in the Senate last week. There are two immense restaurants in the basement of the Capitol, one under the Senate, the other under the House. To these restaurants Senators, Representatives and hundreds of visitors about the Capitol go for refreshments. The rules say no intoxicating liquors shall be sold in these restaurants, but the rule has been evaded and the initiated have been able to get what they wanted in tea-cups under the fiction of tea. During the discussion of the new rules Senator Frye from Maine, told a ghastly story to the effect that he had seen a common laborer in a blouse, with breeches in boots, drinking bad whiskey out of a common crockery cup at one of the Capitol restaurants. This what no doubt an appalling picture and enough to make the bronze Goddess of Liberty shudder, but a close analysis of the invective of the dude minded young Senator, will show that the scandal and the crime was chiefly in the blouse, the breeches, and the boots of the poor workman. The lobbyists and pimps, the male Panders, and female Pandoras who have been supported about the Capitol by Senator Frye's party until they own it, dress better than the workmen, but they are infinitely wiser and more hideous than blouse, breeches boots and bad whiskey.

The new rules of the Senate go into force this morning, and Democratic Senators are determined to take advantage of every means in their power to secure the enforcement of the provisions respecting the order of business. If rigidly adhered to the new rules promise to shorten the work of the Senate considerably and make its action more dependent upon the merits of a measure than upon the persistence of the Senator who has it in charge.

The Mexican treaty overshadows in importance all other matters now before the Senate, and if its friends choose to attempt a reconsideration of the vote of last Friday, the week in whole or in part may be given up to it. There are no measures of great importance upon the calendar of the Senate at present. Mr. Cullom's bill for the reorganization of the legislative power of Utah, some discussion of which has already taken place, will doubtless be reached early in the week, but the only question about it will be with regard to its reference. The measure, involving as it does the reorganization of the entire governmental machinery of Utah, would naturally go to the Committee on Territories. Among the measures which may be reported from committees during the week is the bill introduced by Mr. Sherman authorizing the issue of circulating notes to National banks proportioned in amount to the market value of their bonds; Mr. Edmunds civil rights bill and the shipping bill. These measures have been under consideration respectively by the Finance, the Judiciary and Commerce committees during several of their recent meetings, and the committee work upon them is supposed to be nearly concluded. If none of these matters are reached or if they do not occupy all the week, the bill providing a form of civil government in Alaska, reported by Mr. Harrison from the Committee on Territories, will come up and give rise to some discussion.

Parker County has ninety-four public schools and 3371 pupils, of which only eighty are colored.

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At the entrance of the new year, THE POST desires to express its gratitude for the hearty welcome it has received, and the magnificent success it has already achieved, its welcome comes from the people. Its success is their work. They have endorsed its merits by more than trebling its circulation in five months and by doubling its advertising. For this they are entitled to our warmest thanks.

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But what has been done is merely the beginning. THE POST will be improved during the coming year in all its departments, it proposes to continue to be above everything else, a Journal for the family as well as for the business man; and while it pretends to no pretensions of dignity, it will be clean and dignified, and at the same time sparkling and vigorous.

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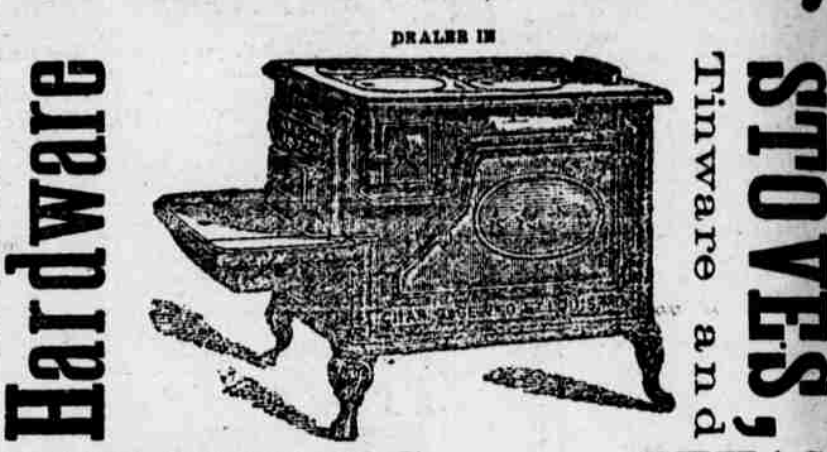
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